

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 - 14, 24, 26 and 27 are now in the case. Of these, Claims 24 and 27 are independent claims. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 - 14 and 26 depend either mediately or immediately from Claim 24.

Claim 24 is directed to apparatus for connection to a flat panel TV screen to improve the appearance thereof and to facilitate operation of audio and video functions related to said flat panel TV screen.

The apparatus recited in Claim 24 includes a frame having a frame opening larger than the size of the screen viewing area of a flat panel TV screen and a mat releasably attached to the frame.

The mat extends inwardly from the frame into the frame opening. The recited mat is formed of material allowing passage therethrough of wireless control transmissions and has a mat opening smaller than the frame opening.

The apparatus set forth in Claim 24 also includes connector structure for connecting the releasably attached frame and mat to the flat panel TV screen. The mat, when the releasably attached frame and mat are connected to the flat

panel TV screen by the connector structure, extends from the frame toward the screen viewing area and surrounds the screen viewing area. The mat is sized and configured to allow viewing of the screen viewing area through the frame opening and through the mat opening.

It is further recited that the releasably attached frame and mat are cooperable to substantially cover the housing and substantially shield the housing from view by a person observing the screen viewing area while allowing control of audio and video functions by wireless control transmissions.

The system or combination of structural elements and cooperative relationships existing therebetween as set forth in Claim 24 (which facilitates and allows actual use and control of the TV while providing a pleasing aesthetic appearance) is not taught by newly cited Lin, Kim, Graham or any of the other art of record.

An important aspect of applicant's invention resides in the ability of the apparatus to readily adapt to and be used with flat panel TV screens of different sizes. This is due to the fact that the mat and frame of applicant's apparatus are releasably attached, that is, separate and separable structural components. One of the advantages of this arrangement is that a

single sized frame may be used in conjunction with different mats, e.g. mats with different top, bottom and side widths to adapt the structure to flat panel TV screens with different sized housings and viewing areas. The apparatus is readily adapted to different sizes and models of flat panel TV screens. Utilizing the teachings of applicant's invention, a frame size may be chosen to surround a maximum size screen, with the mat being chosen or selected to "fill in" the space between the outer edge of the screen housing and the viewing area of the screen. That is, applicant's invention readily allows viewing of the viewing area.

Also important is the recitation that the mat is formed of material allowing passage therethrough of wireless control transmissions. Thus, as also set forth in Claim 24, the releasably attached frame and mat not only are cooperable to substantially cover the housing and shield it from view but they allow control of audio and video functions by wireless control transmissions. Applicant's claimed invention therefore allows and facilitates full use and control of audio and video functions while improving the appearance of the TV outside the viewing area thereof.

Lin does not teach or even remotely suggest these approaches. The Lin apparatus is a decorative shade for a video display. It includes a "window" 10 in the form of a decorative frame which is connected to a video display and surrounds the viewing area. The frame supports a shade or blind 30 which covers the entire viewing area when unrolled. There is no mat associated with the frame. The frame of Lin is sized for a particular size and shape of video display. There is no teaching or suggestion in Lin that the frame thereof (or for that matter the shade or blind associated therewith) in any way permits passage therethrough of wireless control transmissions allowing control of audio and video functions while the Lin device is in place. The shade or blind of Lin merely conforms to the shape of and alternatively completely covers and uncovers the screen. It is not associated with any controls of the video display whether up or down. There is no suggestion that the frame can be utilized for such purpose either.

The other patents of record, including Kim, do not remedy the deficiencies of Lin as a reference. Kim merely suggests a particular approach for carrying out the well known practice of installing an external signal input unit in a compartment of a displaying apparatus such as a cover casing

holding an LCD panel. There is no teaching or suggestion of a frame/mat combination for connection to the cover casing, much less the specific combination set forth in Claim 24 and its attendant advantages.

The Graham (6,901,987) apparatus is similar to that of Lin in that it is also a decorative shade for completely covering a video display. It includes a decorative frame. The frame is wall mounted to surround a wall mounted television. The frame supports a shade or blind which covers the entire television (including the speakers thereof) when unrolled. There is no mat associated with the frame of Graham and the apparatus and television are not directly connected. There is no teaching or suggestion in Graham that the frame thereof, or for that matter the shade or blind associated therewith, in any way permits the passage therethrough of wireless control transmissions allowing control of audio and video functions of the television while the Graham device is in place. The shade or blind of Graham merely covers and uncovers the TV. It is not associated with any controls of the video display, whether up or down. There is no suggestion that the frame can be utilized for such purpose either.

For the reasons discussed above with respect to Lin, Kim fails to remedy the deficiencies of Graham as a reference.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 - 14 and 26 incorporate by reference all of the structural features and cooperative relationships set forth in parent Claim 24.

Claim 26 recites that the apparatus additionally comprises mat attachment structure for releasably attaching the mat to the frame whereby the mat may be removed from the frame and replaced by a substitute mat or conversely the frame replaced by another frame. There is no suggestion or teaching whatsoever of these features, which are supplemental to the novel overall combination set forth in parent Claim 24, by Lin, Graham, Kim or any of the other art of record.

Claims 3 and 4 depend directly from new Claim 24, Claim 3 reciting certain details regarding the connector structure and Claim 4 reciting that the mat is formed of sound transmissive material disposed over at least one loudspeaker included in the housing. Neither Lin, nor Graham nor Kim, nor any of the other references of record, provide any suggestion of these features. With regard to Claim 4 specifically, while Graham shows a shade positionable over an entire TV, including the speakers thereof, the TV and speakers are rendered

essentially useless when the shade covers the TV. There is no teaching or suggestion that the shade is of sound transmissive material, and of course the entire viewing area of the TV is covered along with the speaker.

Claim 6 depends from Claim 26 and recites that the mat attachment structure maintains the mat in a substantially planar condition. It is believed that applicant is entitled to the protection afforded by this claim since it incorporates by reference the novel overall structure set forth in Claim 26 and 24.

Claim 7 recites that the apparatus includes an electronic component receptacle on the frame and defining a receptacle interior for receiving at least one electronic component operatively associated with the flat panel screen operable by wireless control transmissions from a control external of the apparatus, the electronic component receptacle being disposed behind the frame and is substantially hidden from view by a person positioned in front of the flat panel TV screen.

There is no suggestion whatsoever of this feature in the art of record, including Lin, Kim, Graham and I've, et al. I've, et al relates to an arrangement very different from

applicant's invention. I've, et al relates to methods and apparatus for organizing the electric cables of peripheral equipment attached to a computer housing, the peripheral equipment disposed outside the computer housing. Not only does I've, et al not relate to a flat panel TV screen, the I've, et al housing cannot be utilized for receiving electronic components operatively associated with the flat panel TV screen and operable from a control external of the apparatus.

Claims 9 - 14 depend mediately or immediately from Claim 7, the latter depending from Claim 24. Claims 9 - 14 recite features relating to the electronic component receptacle and its relationship to the rest of the apparatus. There is no teaching or suggestion whatsoever in the art of record of the structure of Claims 9 - 14 nor of the structure set forth in Claim 24 and intermediate Claim 7, as discussed above.

Claim 27 is a new claim directed to apparatus for connection to a flat panel TV screen to improve the appearance thereof.

The apparatus recites a combination of structural elements or system wherein a frame surrounds the screen viewing area of a flat panel TV screen when the frame is connected to the flat panel TV screen.

The claim also recites a wireless receiver incorporated in the frame for receiving wireless transmissions from a transmitter external of the frame operatively associated with audio/video equipment external of the frame and receiving electronic signals from the audio/video equipment.

The claim further recites that the receiver is operatively associated with the flat panel TV screen when the apparatus is connected to the flat panel TV screen for inputting the electronic signals into the flat panel TV screen.

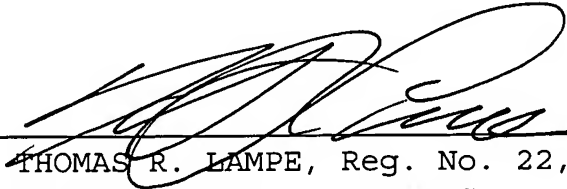
There is no suggestion whatsoever of this claimed combination in Lin, Kim, Graham or any of the other references of record. Applicant's invention as set forth in Claim 27 not only utilizes the frame to enhance appearance or aesthetics, but also to receive electronic signals from audio/video equipment external of the frame and input the electronic signals into the flat panel TV screen.

Kim does not teach a wireless receiver in a frame for connection to a flat panel TV screen. Kim discloses a wireless receiver located in the conventional cover casing of a displaying apparatus within which an LCD panel is disposed. Kim does not disclose a frame attachable to the cover casing.

In summary, all claims now in the application are believed to clearly patentably define over the art of record, whether taken alone or in combination. Reconsideration by the Examiner is requested. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance with respect to this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. R. Lampe', is written over a horizontal line.

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